Community Evaluation Factor
An additional indicator of distress in Waterville is the City's community evaluation factor calculated by a consultant for DECD in 2011. The score is intended to assess each community's relative need for grant assistance for public infrastructure, public facilities, and economic development. [DECD's Office of Community Development (OCD) no longer uses it in scoring housing assistance program applications. For that program, the Office uses percent LMI instead.]

The community evaluation factor is composed of 4 components, with a range of 0 to 5 points each:

1.   tax burden [total local property tax commitment in 2008 divided by (total population times per capita income), a score of 2 points],

2.   per capita income [5 points for a per capita income below $20,000; Waterville was at $19,160 in 2009],

3.   unemployment [3 points for an unemployment rate of 8.9% in July 2010], and

4.   5 points for being a service center community.

Waterville scored 15 out of a possible 20 points, 20 points indicating the greatest need for State assistance. Waterville was assigned a distress score higher than all towns in the State with the exception of the eleven towns below with higher scores and the eighteen towns with which Waterville tied.

Scoring 18 points were: Milbridge, Millinocket, and Skowhegan. Scoring 17 points were: Bethel, Eastport, Rangeley, and Rumford. Scoring 16 points were: Dexter, Guilford, Jackman, and Lubec. Tying with Waterville were: Ashland, Bancroft, Beddington, Blue Hill, Calais, Damariscotta, Deblois, Dover-Foxcroft, Houlton, Lincoln, Madawaska, Newport, Norway, Oxford, Rockland, Sanford, Southwest Harbor, and Van Buren.

Issues and Needs

1. Waterville needs to attract young people to the *region* in order to fill projected job openings (nurses, for example). Expanding the workforce, in turn, will attract new businesses to bolster the economy.

2. Waterville needs to plan for those in poverty and residents 65 and older.